Central Secretariat Service under central staffing scheme

1960. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Staffing Scheme envisages selection of Officers from various services to man senior ad ministrative posts at the Centre;

(b) whether the CSS is one of the participating serivces under the Central Staffing Scheme; and

(c) whether the posts of Under Secret ary remain outside the purview of the Central Staffing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Appointments to all posts of the rank of Under Secretary and above in the Government of India are filled under the provisions of the Central Staff-fing Scheme, by borrowing officers from All India Services, Central Services Group 'A' and Central Secretariat Service.

Working group for openness and transparency in economic reforms

1961. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Working Group on the Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government in implementation of economic reforms and liberalisation in economy; and

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference and which are the areas beyond scrutiny of the Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Government have set up a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of open and transparent Govemment. A copy of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions O.M. No. 34011/l(SV97-Estt(B) dated 2nd January, 1997 indicating the composition and terms of reference of the Group is laid on the Table of the House as per Statement.

Statement

Composition of working group on right to information and promotion of open transparent Government

No. 34011/l(S)97-Estt.(B)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

New Delhi, dated 2nd Jan. 1997

OFICE MEMORANDUM

SuBJECT:Setting up of a Working Group on Right to Information and promotion of open and tranparent Government.

There is widespread agreement on the need for a clean and responsive administration based on the principles of accountability, openness, decentralisation and citizen orientation. In the context of the National Debate on Effective and Responsive Administration initiated by the Government of India, it has been decided to formulate specific measures for the introduction of greater transparency in the functioning of Government and public bodies, with reference to both their own employees, and interaction with members of public. It is also considered necessary to ensure widespread and easy access of citizens to all information relating to operations of Government and

public agencies, subject to specified exceptions. For this purpose, the possibility of the introduction of a legislation for Right to Information at the levels of Central and State Government could be examined after appropriate consultations. This would involve also the consideration of amendment to various relevant legislations including the Official Secrets Act.

2. In view of the above, it has been decided, with the approval of the Cabinet Secretary, to constitute a Working Group on "Right to Information and Transparency" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie, Chairman, Common Cause, New Delhi with the following composition:—

1.	Shri H.D. Shourie	Chairman
2.	Shri Soli Sorabjee	Member
3.	PIO, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	Member
4.	A representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
5.	Additional/Joint Secretary, Department of legal Affairs	Member
6.	A representative of the Ministry of Railways	Member
7.	A representative of the Department of Posts	Member
8.	A representative of the Department of Telecom	Member
9.	Shri Harinder Singh, Jt. Secy., Department of Personnel and Training	Member

3. The Terms of Reference of the Working group are as follows:—

a. To examine the feasibility and need of either a full fledged Right to Information Act or its introduction in a phased manner to meet the needs of open and responsive Govemment.

b. To identify specific areas where Right to Information can be built into the working procedures and working system especially in large departmental undertakings includ ing Railways, Telecommunications, Postal Services, Passports and Banking at the Central Govern ment level.

c. To examine the internal working procedures with a view to introduc ing greater openness and transpa rency in handling of employee grievances and internal consulta tion.

d. To examine the rules framework with particular reference to the ex isting Conduct Rules and manual of Office Procdufe with a view to introducing grater openness and transparency in Government work ing including dealings with em ployees.

e. To examine the nature and content of training to romote greater open ness and more customer responsive public dealings.

4. The Working Group will submit its report within a period of two months.

5. The expenditure on local transport and other allownances of the non-official members, as per rules applicable to Group 'A' officers of the Government of India, will be met from the budjet of Department of Personnel and Training.

(Y.G. Parande)
Director
Tele. 3015589

To

Shri H.D. Shourie, A-31, Westend, New Delhi-110021.

Shri Soli Sorabjee, Sr. Advocate, 134 Sundar Nagar, New Delhi-110003.

Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.

Secretay, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Chairman, Railway Board, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

Secretary, Department of Posts, Dak Bhavan, New Delhi.

Secretary, Department of Telecom-munications, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi.

Principal, Information Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcas-ing, New Delhi.

Joint Secretary(E), DOPT, North Block, New Delhi.

Copy for information to:—

1. Staff Officer to Cabinet Secretary
2. PS to Prime Minister
3. PPS to Secretary (P)
4. PS to: EO, AS(P), AS(S&V), JS(T), JS (AT & A)

Inconsistencies in common seniority list of section officers

1962. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Secretariat (Direct Recruits' Gazetted) Association has submitted representation to Government, pointing out certain inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the Common Seniority List of Section Officers circulated in May, 1996;

(b) if so, what are the points made in the representation and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Govemment propose to rectify the said inaccurancies and teh inconsistencies; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBT TC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Common Seniority List (CSL) of Section Officers in question has been prepared and circulated on 15.5.1996 in pursuance of the order dated 22.3.1995 of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in a batch of ap-plicaitons. In their representation, the Association has mainly pointed out certain inaccurancies in the data relating to substantive vancancies, the methodology adopted for finalising the list and inclusion in/omission of certain officers from the list. The Govemment is acting upon the CSL of Section Officers, so prepared and taking requisite consequential actions about the management of the cadre of Central Secretariat Services.

Upgradation of pay scale of deputy superintendent in CBI

1963. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Secretariat (Direct Recruits-Gazetted) Association had represented in May, 1996 for rectification of anomally created by upgradation of pay scale of Deputy Superintendent of Police in the CBI, retrospectively from 1st January, 1996;

(b) whether such an upgradation has resulted in placing direct recruits from Civil Services Examination, 1986 onwards in higher ranks, and those working in Central Secretariat Service in a lower scale, as compared to those direct recruits who got lower ranks but opted for service in CBI;

(c) whether Government propose to rectify the anomaly; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?